

Ref: R/5143/ RML5143

Subject: FLOW Port Talbot Method Statement

Subtidal benthic grab survey

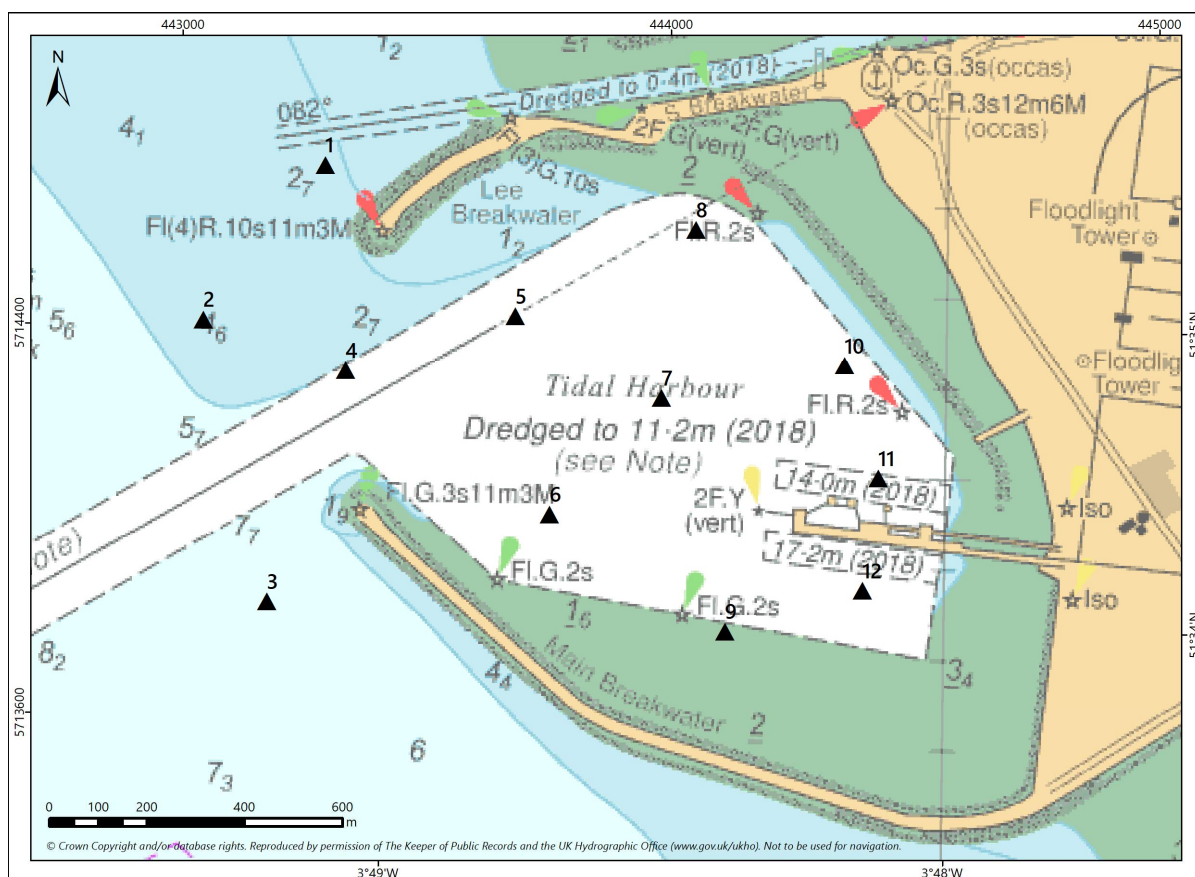
A subtidal benthic grab survey will be undertaken to characterise the benthic fauna within the footprint of the proposed development. The survey work is being undertaken on behalf of Associated British Ports, who are the Statutory Harbour Authority. The survey is planned to be undertaken over a two day period using a vessel and is currently scheduled for the week of 12th June 2023.

It is currently proposed that up to twelve stations are sampled within the proposed area. The indicative location of these stations is shown in Figure 1, with indicative survey area coordinates shown in Table 1. Benthic samples will be collected using a 0.1 m² Day Grab for macrofauna analysis (faunal composition, abundance and biomass). An additional analysis will also be taken at each station for determination of particle size analysis (PSA) and total organic carbon (TOC).

At each site, up to three attempts will be made to retrieve a suitable sample (i.e. a grab containing sufficient volume of sediment for analysis). The sediment depths within the grab that will be used for sample acceptance are a minimum of 7 cm for muddy or soft sediments and 5 cm for hard packed or coarse sediments. Anything less than these values will only be retained if no other viable sample can be collected. Samples will be sent to an accredited Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control (NMBAQC) laboratory within five hours of collection where they will be suitably preserved, negating the need to sieve and fix samples on site.

Table 1. Indicative survey area coordinates, WGS84

Sample station	Latitude	Longitude
1	51.58072	-3.81844
2	51.57785	-3.82199
3	51.57266	-3.82002
4	51.57694	-3.81776
5	51.57797	-3.81277
6	51.57433	-3.81169
7	51.57649	-3.80843
8	51.57958	-3.80745
9	51.5722	-3.80647
10	51.57713	-3.80303
11	51.57506	-3.802
12	51.57297	-3.80243



The activity does not take place within a sensitive area and is not considered to have any potential for adverse impacts on the environment. The sampling area is within the Port and will be undertaken with full permission and necessary notifications to undertake the survey. The survey vessel will also adhere to all navigational guidelines and regulations set by ABP as the Statutory Harbour Authority to maintain navigational safety.